

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Port of Stockton, West Complex Docks 14 and 15 Dredging Project, Roberts Island No. 1 Dredged Material Disposal Site, San Joaquin County

BOARD ACTION *Consideration of New Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification*

BACKGROUND: In July 2000, the Port of Stockton (Discharger) obtained 1,400 acres of Rough and Ready Island, referred to as the West Complex. The West Complex was previously zoned for institutional uses, and has been changed to accommodate maritime, industrial and commercial land uses. The Discharger plans a phased development of the West Complex for maritime and other related operations over the next 20 years.

In order to allow modern commercial shipping access, the Discharger proposes to dredge 130,000 cubic yards of material from the river bottom adjacent to docks 14 and 15, to result in a new depth of 35 feet below MLLW. No dredging is proposed at this time for docks 16-20. The Discharger has requested waste discharge requirements and water quality certification for the proposed project. In response to circulation of tentative waste discharge requirements, comments and objections were received from Deltakeeper, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CalSPA) and Friends of Riviera Cliffs, a group of homeowners represented by Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP and Steve Bond and Associates.

ISSUES: The contesting parties have raised concerns about the classification of the dredged material as designated vs. inert waste; whether mitigations for impacts on dissolved oxygen are sufficient; whether the EIR is appropriate; and whether possible seepage of leachate from the dredged material disposal site into agricultural drains requires effluent limits.

In response to these comments, Water Board Staff has:

- Proposed amending tentative WDRs to classify dredged material as a inert waste;
- Reviewed aeration requirements and made minor modifications to the operating schedule, and increased monitoring requirements;
- Reviewed the EIR and found it appropriate for the proposed project;
- Reviewed extensive groundwater monitoring data at the disposal site which indicate that after decades of use as a dredged material disposal site, there is no clear indication that dredged material impacts to groundwater are significantly different than impacts from native soil;
- Reviewed monitoring requirements and prohibitions for discharge of leachate into agricultural drains and found them appropriate.

Water Board Staff has considered these concerns and issues, and believes that the measures prescribed in the tentative WDRs and the water quality certification will adequately protect water quality.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

3/4 August 2006 meeting
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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